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JO ANN DAVIS  
FIRST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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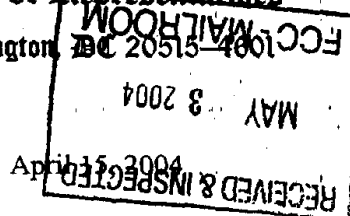
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1410

Ms. Diane Atkinson  
Congressional Liaison Specialist  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room 8-C453  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I am writing to forward the concerns of one of my constituents, Mr. Robert W. Lewis. Mr. Lewis is concerned about HF radio communications.

Please contact Sarah Roberts in my Washington, D.C. office with a response to Mr. Lewis' concerns or any additional questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Davis  
Member of Congress

JAD:srx  
Enclosure

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3 MAY 2004 RCUD

**Roberts, Sarah**

**From:** writerep  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2004 7:06 PM  
**To:** VA01WYR  
**Subject:** WriteRep Responses

**DATE:** March 25, 2004 6:23 PM  
**NAME:** Robert W. Lewis  
**ADDR1:** 6 Hulvey Drive  
**ADDR2:**  
**ADDR3:**  
**CITY:** Stafford  
**STATE:** Virginia  
**ZIP:** 22554  
**PHONE:** 540-659-9894  
**EMAIL:** rlewis@midatlanticbb.com  
msg:

I would like to make sure that you are aware of a situation that the FCC is considering which has the probability to severely limit HF radio communications. They are considering permitting power companies to transmit HF radio signals over the power lines. I have worked as an electronics technician and engineer for the U.S. Navy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for many years. Much of my work was with HF radio systems. As anyone who has worked with these systems should know, any time you apply RF energy to unshielded wires like the power lines, these wires are going to radiate that energy into the air. After all, HF radio systems work by putting energy into wire antennas.

These radiated signals will increase the noise levels and cause severe interference to radio systems, especially those such as Amateur Radio which most often must operate near the power lines. While the BPL (Broadband Over Powerline) proponents insist that there will be no interference to other licensed systems, test measurements made by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) have proven this to be incorrect. Tests near the Manassas, VA BPL test site showed severe interference rendering the mobile HF radio system nearly useless. The FCC continues to bury their heads in the sand, insisting that the BPL companies will eliminate interference - an impossible task. I would also like to point out that the BPL techniques have been tried and abandoned by a number of other countries.

The interference from BPL will have a severely negative impact on HF radio communications used by Amateur Radio operators and government agencies participating in emergency communications for Homeland Security at the very time when they are needed most by the citizens of the U.S.

I believe that the FCC should be insisting on more extensive testing of the interference potential of this BPL technology before taking any further action to implement it. The ARRL reports that when they go into a BPL test site to take measurements and invite the power company to participate, the BPL test site is shut down so that measurements cannot be made. This indicates to me that the power companies are aware of the interference potential and are attempting to prevent the FCC and the public from finding out about it until it is too late.

It is my opinion that the FCC should be encouraging such technologies as fiber optic cables that can provide interference free, high speed Internet, phone, and cable TV to homes rather than pushing such an ill-fated technology as BPL. BPL will pollute one of our limited natural resources - the radio spectrum.

I believe that our elected representatives need to step in and bring the FCC to their senses on this issue. At the very least there should be extensive testing involving all concerned parties and the results should be verified by a qualified, independent, party. The interest of the general public will not be served by a rush into the implementation of BPL.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lewis